AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-24.   (canceled)

25.   (previously presented)   An apparatus for facilitating the management of costs associated with performing a plurality of processes to manufacture, service and/or maintain an aerospace system incorporating a plurality of physical components, the apparatus comprising a processor and memory configured to:

represent each process as a set of performable operations;

associate each operation with a cost of performing the operation;

receive a user selection of an operation performable in a first of the processes;

determine whether the selected operation is a duplicate of another operation performable in the first process and/or performable in a second of the processes; and

based on the determination, notify the user as to a possible reduction of costs by elimination of a duplicate performance of the selected operation.

26.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to:

identify one or more operations dependent on performance of the selected operation; and

notify the user as to costs associated with the identified dependent operations.

27.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to:

~~identify~~ determine whether an operation is a mandatory operation performable downstream of the selected operation or a permissive operation that need not be performed; and

based on the determining, notify the user as to costs associated with the mandatory operation.

28.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to modify a representation of one or more of the processes based on user input.

29.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are configured to combine representations of two or more processes based on user input.

30.   (previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the aerospace system comprises an aerospace vehicle.

31.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the plurality of processes are performed at a plurality of aerospace work and/or test station locations between which at least part of the aerospace system is moved, the processor and

memory [[are]] configured to identify one or more of the station locations for performing the selected operation.

32.   (currently amended)   The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the processor and memory are further configured to represent each process as a set of sequential operations and to display a list of operations performable after the selected operation without incurring cost beyond any cost of the operations performable after the selected operation.

33.   (currently amended)   A processor-performed method of facilitating the management of costs associated with performing a plurality of processes to manufacture, service and/or maintain an aerospace system incorporating a plurality of physical components, the method comprising:

representing each process as a set of sequential operations;

receiving from a user a selection of one of the operations of a first of the processes;

determining whether the selected operation is performable as part of a second of the processes; and

based on the determining, notifying the user as to a feasibility of combining performances of the first and second processes.

34.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 33, further comprising:

using costs for performing each of the operations of the first process to obtain a cost for performing the first process; and

providing at least one of the costs to the user.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

modifying a representation of the selected operation based on user input; and

based on the modifying, changing a cost associated with performance of the selected operation.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising modifying a representation of a set of operations that includes the selected operation, the modifying performed based on input from the user.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising, based on the modifying, changing a cost associated with the set of operations.

38. (previously presented) A processor-performed method of facilitating the management of costs associated with performing a plurality of processes to manufacture, service and/or maintain an aerospace system incorporating a plurality of physical components, the method comprising:

representing each process as a set of sequential operations;

receiving from a user a selection of one of the operations of a first of the processes;

determining whether the first process is a first sub-process of a second process, and whether the selected operation is duplicated in a second sub-process of the second process; and

based on the determining, notifying the user as to a feasibility of combining performances of the sub-processes.

39.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 38, further comprising:

identifying one or more operations dependent on performance of the selected operation; and

notifying the user as to costs associated with the identified dependent operations.

40.   (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

~~identifying~~ determining whether an operation is a mandatory operation performable downstream of the selected operation or a permissive operation that need not be performed; and

based on the determining, notifying the user as to costs associated with the mandatory operation.

41.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 38, further comprising modifying a representation of one or more of the processes based on user input.

42.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 38, further comprising combining representations of two or more processes based on user input.

43.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 38, wherein the aerospace system comprises an aerospace vehicle.

44.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 38, wherein the plurality of processes are performed at a plurality of aerospace work and/or test station locations between which at least part of the aerospace system is moved, the method further comprising identifying one or more of the station locations for performing the selected operation.